in all respects only as illustrative and not restrictive. The scope of the invention is, therefore, indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description. All changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are to be embraced within their scope.

What is claimed and desired to be secured by United States Letters Patent is:

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1. In a system having a set top box receiving programming content and a display device for displaying the programming content, a method for recording a first stream included in the programming content while displaying a second stream on the display device, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving the programming content at the set top box;

tuning the first stream from the programming content with a tuner;

storing the first stream on a storage medium at the set top box without degrading the first stream; and

displaying a second stream on the display device without using the tuner, wherein the second stream is retrieved from the storage medium.

2. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the act of tuning further comprises the act of demodulating the first stream.

3. A method as defined in claim 2, wherein the act of tuning further comprises the act of demultiplexing the first stream to produce a channel.

4. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the act of storing the first stream further comprises the act of storing a channel included in the first stream.

5. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the act of displaying a second stream further comprises the act of decoding the second stream.

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6. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the second stream comprises a channel that has been previously tuned by the tuner and stored on the storage medium.

7. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the first stream comprises a digital channel.

8. A method as defined in claim 7, wherein the act of storing the digital channel is conducted without performing any digital to analog conversion on the digital channel prior to storing the digital channel on the storage medium.

9. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the programming content is received from a transponder on a satellite.

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10.   In a system receiving digital programming content including a plurality of channels, a method for recording a channel included in the plurality of channels without degrading the channel, the method comprising the acts of:

tuning and demodulating the programming content to identify the plurality of channels;

demultiplexing the plurality of channels to select the channel, wherein the channel is digitally encoded; and

recording the channel on a storage medium without decoding the channel such that the recorded channel is not degraded.

11.   A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the act of tuning and demodulating further comprises the act of selecting, by a user, the channel to be recorded.

12.   A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the channel is compressed.

13.   A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the act of recording the channel further comprises the act of simultaneously displaying the channel on a display device.

14.   A method as defined in claim 13, wherein the act of displaying the channel further comprises the act of decoding the channel with a decoder, wherein the decoder produces video output and audio outputs.

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15.   A method as defined in claim 10, further comprising the acts of:

decoding a second channel already recorded on the storage medium while the channel is recording on the storage medium; and

displaying the second channel, wherein the second channel is not tuned by the system when the second channel is displayed.

16.   A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the programming content is tuned and demodulated in a set top box having a tuner and a demodulator, wherein the programming content is received from a transponder of a satellite.

17.   In a system receiving programming content from a programming content provider, a device for recording a selected channel included in the programming content without degrading the selected channel, the device comprising:

a tuner that tunes the programming content to a plurality of channels included in the programming content;

a demodulator that demodulates the plurality of channels tuned by the tuner;

a transport, wherein the transport receives the plurality of channels demodulated by the demodulator and demultiplexes the plurality of channels to produce the selected channel at a transport output that is connected to a decoder, wherein the transport output can be selectively decoupled from the decoder; and

a storage medium for receiving and recording the selected channel when the transport is decoupled from the decoder such that the selected channel is recorded on the storage medium without degrading the selected channel.

18.   A device as defined in claim 17, wherein the selected channel being recorded is included in the plurality of channels tuned by the tuner.

19.   A device as defined in claim 17, wherein the decoder is connected to the storage medium such that a recorded channel may be decoded and displayed on a display device while the selected channel is recorded on the storage medium.

20.   A device as defined in claim 17, wherein the transport simultaneously directs the selected channel to both the storage medium and the decoder.

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21. A device as defined in claim 17, further comprising a conditional access system, the conditional access system determining whether the device may display the selected channel.

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